

A NOTE ON × *CYPERUS WEATHERBIANUS* — Early in 1962, Mr. Richard J. Eaton, a member of the Club Committee on Plant Distribution which is preparing reports on the distribution of Cyperaceae in New England, asked me while I was at the Gray Herbarium to examine the type of × *Cyperus Weatherbianus* Fern., a putative intergeneric hybrid between *Cyperus dentatus* Torr. and *Rhynchospora capitellata* (Michx.) Vahl. This plant had been puzzling me for a long time, for *Cyperus* and *Rhynchospora* belong to different tribes. Other cyperologists had some doubt too. For instance, in his monograph of the genus *Cyperus* (Pflanzenreich IV. 20 (Heft 101): 251. 1936) the late G. Kükenthal commented as follows:

“Nota. *C. Weatherbianus* Fernald in *Rhodora* XX. (1918) 190, t. CXXV, fig. 1-5 a cl. Fernald pro prole hybrida bigenerea, nempe *Cyperus dentatus* Torr. × *Rhynchospora capitellata* Vahl sumptus mihi dubius esse apparet, parentibus indicatis in systemate Cyperacearum admodum distantibus. Sed specimina originalia non vidi.

Crescit in Massachusetts: Sandy shore of Simmons Pond (C. A. Weatherby, Fernald und Long n. 16287).”

A close look at the type of × *Cyperus Weatherbianus* Fern. shows that this plant has very little, if any, *Cyperus* influence in its make-up. First, the stem is nodose, and the scales of the fascicled spikelets are three ranked. These two characters eliminate the genus *Cyperus*, which has only basal leaves and two-ranked spikelets. After studying all the possibilities, I am convinced that the plant is the result of a cross between *Rhynchospora capitellata* (Michx.) Vahl and *Dulichium arundinaceum* (L.) Britton, *Rhynchospora* having provided the three-ranked colored scales, whereas *Dulichium* contributed the shape and the distribution of the fascicles emerging from the leaf-sheaths of the stem, as well as the subulate tubercle of the achene.

This finding is of great phylogenetic importance, for the real position of the genus *Dulichium* in the family Cyperaceae is still a debatable point. Whereas Kükenthal (Bot. Jahrb. 75: 485-488. 1952) placed it amongst the Rhynchosporoideae, Fernald (Gray's Manual of Botany, ed. 8. 248) squeezed it between *Cyperus* and *Eleocharis*, and Schultze-Motel (Willdenowia 2(2): 173. 1959) created a new tribe, Dulichieae, to accommodate this unusual monotypic genus.



This new evidence shows that *Dulichium* rightly belongs to the Rhynchosporoideae. It is strange that the late Professor Fernald after having originally described his intergeneric hybrid in 1918 with the scales spirally arranged, changed his mind in 1950 and in the *Gray's Manual* stated clearly, "the spikelets with many distichous scales." They are decidedly three ranked.

I do not think it necessary to transfer  $\times$  *Cyperus Weatherbianus* to any other genus, for only one tussock has been found, that from Cape Cod. It is sufficient that we assume the probable correct identity of this odd individual and emphasize its phylogenetic importance. It is a chance, sterile, intergeneric hybrid that will probably never duplicate itself, so the problem of giving it a distinct name does not arise. — MARCEL RAYMOND, MONTREAL BOTANICAL GARDEN.

AN ALBINO FRUITED FORM OF VACCINIUM MACROCARPON. — A colony of albino berried plants was found on the west shore of Tom Nevers Pond, Nantucket Island, Massachusetts, on September 11, 1958. Two sets of specimens were collected of this plant, which were assigned the collection number N2. Because of the difficulty of getting into the area, and due to a previous coronary, I have never returned to it. The small colony extended from the shore into a large area covered with plants bearing very dark red berries of large size. The albino berries were about three quarters of the size of the red berries. The set of fruit was about equal. There was a definite contrast between the plants due to the lighter foliage and the white berries of the albino plants. Thus, from high ground, these plants appeared to be massed in such a way as to resemble a slice of pie, the apex being furthest from the shore. The albino berries were nearly spherical, whereas the red berries were decidedly oblong. A few of the larger and older berries had a tendency to form "a blush" on their surfaces which were more exposed to the sun.

When I was certain that this was definitely a colony of albinos, I envisioned marketing the red and white berries